

At the General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia, begun and holden at Halifax, on Wednesday the first day of July, 1761, and in the first year of His Majesty's Reign.

1 George III – Chapter 11

An Act for the Relief of the Poor of the Town of Halifax, and Indigent Persons in the new Settlements.

Whereas it has been represented to the General Assembly, that by reason of the great drought of the present season, which is likely to shorten the expected crops, and other causes and accidents, many poor people of the new settlements will be in imminent danger of the want of bread corn. And whereas there are sundry necessaries still wanting for the workhouse at Halifax, as well as for the support of such poor people in town as are proper objects of charity, altho' not fit to be sent to a workhouse. And whereas, the present state of the Province funds will not admit of affording the necessary supplies, without injuring such persons as have large demands for bounties, premiums, and debts contracted by the government, that hitherto remain unpaid.

Be it therefore enacted by the Honourable the Commander in Chief, Council, and Assembly, that the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Commander in Chief of the Province for the time being, be and is hereby impowered to borrow a sum of money, not exceeding eight hundred and fifty pounds, of the present currency, on the credit of the Province funds; seven hundred pounds whereof to be applied for purchasing grain for the relief of such poor in the said new settlements as may be in real want thereof, for their support during the ensuing winter; and the remaining one hundred and fifty pounds to be applied for purchasing a loom and copper, and for digging a well and building an oven at the said workhouse, and the residue for supporting such of the necessitous poor in the town of Halifax and its suburbs, as are not in a condition to be sent to the said workhouse, and to be under the direction and management of the overseers of the poor for the time being.

And be it further enacted, that any sum so borrowed, not exceeding the said sum of eight hundred and fifty pounds as aforesaid, shall be paid back to the lender or lenders thereof at the expiration of one year compleat from the date of such loan, with lawfull interest to the said time of payment, and thereafter till paid, by the Treasurer or keeper of the Province funds for the time being, if any monies shall then remain in his hands after paying the several bounties and premiums, and other debts already contracted by the Government for public buildings or otherwise; and in case no surplus shall remain in the treasury, when the borrowed money aforesaid shall become due, the same shall be paid with interest as aforesaid, out of the then growing duties on wines, beer, rum, and other distilled spirituous liquors.

And be it further enacted, that no person in the new settlements shall be intitled to receive any share or part of the aforementioned bounty of grain, for the support of themselves or their families, until oath shall first have been made before a magistrate, that he or she

cannot possibly subsist themselves or families without relief; which oath shall be certified by the Magistrate before whom the same shall be made, to the person or persons who shall be charged by the Governor, Lieunant Governor, or Commander in Chief, to distribute the said grain.